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the map, and promoted the young ensign to the lieutenantancy for which he had been recommended." — pp. 22 – 26.

The tone of this part of the lecture is too eulogistic to be perfectly in taste; and, perhaps, the confidence expressed in the results of Mr. Ericsson's calculations and combinations is too unqualified. The boast of Captain Stockton, "that, with twenty steam-frigates, on the new plan [the plan of the Princeton], he would engage to take possession of the British Channel, and to blockade London itself," takes away all value from his opinion, on which Mr. Sargent seems to set a high estimate. The terrible result of this officer's experiments with the Princeton's guns is an argument against his authority which cannot be easily answered.

4. — *Remarks on China and the China Trade.* By R. B. FORBES. Boston: Samuel N. Dickinson, Printer. 1844. 8vo. pp. 80.

THE affairs of the Celestial Empire have assumed a new interest in the eyes of the barbarian foreigners, since the termination of her war with England has opened a few more of her ports to their trade, and inclined them to speculate upon the possible amount of their goods which she may be induced to take, in exchange for her teas and silks. The moral aspect of the late war has also given rise to some curious questions, which have been discussed with great ardor, but with very little knowledge of the circumstances on which the decision of them must depend. We are very glad, therefore, that a sensible and well informed merchant, who has been long and most successfully engaged in trade with China, and who has resided for many years in Canton, in the most intimate relations with the Hong merchants there, has undertaken to publish a plain statement of many interesting facts, relative to our commercial intercourse with the empire, with which a few persons of his class are very familiar, though the public at large are sadly ignorant of them. He has executed his task with great simplicity and clearness, giving a succinct account of the origin of the trade, with some curious anecdotes pertaining to it, of its great increase, the mode in which it has been carried on, the restrictions under which it has labored, the circumstances attendant upon the late war with Great Britain, and the probable effect of recent events upon future commercial intercourse with China. The constitution and

purposes of that singular company, the Hong merchants, are very well explained, and the brief history of the management of the trade by them will serve to enhance the ideas entertained by most persons of the shrewdness and the honesty of the better classes among the Chinese. Novel and copious statistics are afforded respecting the amount of the trade, the different articles in which it has been carried on, and the fluctuations to which it has been subject. All the information contained in the pamphlet commends itself to our attention and belief, from the frank and straight-forward manner in which it is given; the single purpose of the writer being evidently to impart knowledge, and not to answer any ulterior end.

Not the least interesting portion of the pamphlet is the brief sketch of the origin and nature of the opium trade. The subject is treated only as a great commercial and political question; its moral aspect, in relation both to the consumers and to the parties who bring it to China, being left entirely out of view. Most of the opium sold at Canton comes from British India, where the growth of it is a government monopoly, and where it is raised avowedly for the purpose of being exported to China. The revenue derived from it by the East India Company is very great; amounting, in one year, to nearly a million sterling. The trade in it was nominally made illegal at the commencement of the present century, but no active measures were taken by the Chinese government to put a stop to it till 1821, when the ships containing the drug were ordered to move out of the river. After that year, Lintin, an island seventy miles below Canton, became the *dépôt* for the opium trade. This island was considered as beyond the jurisdiction of the Chinese authorities at Canton; the British merchants maintaining, that they had as good a right to sell their goods there, as at Macao, or on the open sea. Contracts for the sale of opium were made at Canton, and the purchaser, having obtained an order from the merchant, proceeded with it to the store-ships at Lintin, obtained the drug, and brought it up the river at his own risk; generally, by connivance with the mandarins, but sometimes, by fast boats, in spite of them. If the trade had continued in this channel, probably no difficulty would have occurred. But the British merchants, wishing to get nearer to market, and to save the expense of the store-ships at Lintin, began, in 1835, to send opium up to Whampoa, and even to Canton itself, in small craft, under the British flag. This procedure caused, at last, the seizure of the opium by the Chinese authorities, and, eventually, the war with England.

Mr. Forbes does not expect much from the mission of Mr.

Cushing, who, he thinks, will not be allowed to visit Pekin, but will make some insignificant commercial arrangements, "will write an interesting account of his voyage, and, after a stay of six or eight months in the outskirts of China, will return home."

5.—*Drawings and Tintings*. By ALFRED B. STREET. New York: Burgess & Stringer. 1844.

WE have always read the poems of Mr. Street with regret, that so much original power should be wasted by affectation, neglect, and misuse. The very title of the present collection almost compels one to shut up the book, without reading a single page. Mr. Willis began these finical titles in his "Pencillings by the Way"; and since that unfortunate titular whim made its appearance, every puny poetaster and prosier has felt himself called upon to mimic the affected metamorphosis of present participles into common — quite too common — nouns.

No doubt, Mr. Street is a poet; he has the imagination and the faculty divine. But he has a very wrong idea of the poet's duty, which he interprets into an imperative obligation to be for ever in a fine frenzy rolling. He is always in a fury; always foaming at the mouth. Nothing short of a tornado of emotion can satisfy his uneasy spirit. But no man can for ever keep his imagination at the high-pressure pitch. The mind refuses to submit to an eternal tension; and the Muse herself cannot keep up an endless ecstasy. Mr. Street seems to think, that to be calm and self-possessed is to be tame and prosaic, forgetting that the truest power makes the least bluster. Enthusiasm and passion are temporary in their very nature. Whoever attempts to protract them beyond a certain point does violence to the powers of the human mind, and those to whom he addresses himself listen, if they listen at all, with dislike and incredulity. Mr. Street is perpetually attempting to work up his materials into something grand, imposing, and terrible. It is impossible to believe, that he can really think every thing is so very gorgeous and wonderful; and therefore we are offended with the simulated splendors which he attempts to throw around his compositions, as essentially untruthful. We are thoroughly wearied with the immense quantities of sound and fury, signifying nothing, which his rampant genius produces.

With such radically wrong views of poetry, Mr. Street's style could not well be otherwise than bad. The first defect that strikes